Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

NIC-01 NEA-10 AF-10 DRC-01 /128 W ------ 010574

O 291437Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8889
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL TRIESTE IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE
COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

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USDOCOSOUTH NOT ADDEE PASS TO COMNAVSOUTH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IT, YO, US

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

SUBJECT: US SHIP VISITS TO TRIESTE FOLLOWING US-ITALIAN AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE

REF: STATE 62584

1. EMBOFF CONVEYED INFO IN REFTEL TO FSFA US DESK (MATIC) THIS AFTERNOON, STRESSING ROUTINE NATURE OF VISITS AND FACT THEY PLANNED LONG IN ADVANCE. MATIC, NOTING THAT AN OFFICIAL REPLY WAS NOT REQUIRED, STATED HIS "UNOFFICIAL VIEW" THAT THE SHIP VISITS AND SEAMEN'S LEAVES COMING AT THIS TIME WAS AN "UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE" WHICH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY GIVE RISE TO SPECULATION NOT JUST IN YUGOSLAVIA BUT IN "CERTAIN ITALIAN CIRCLES" THAT THE USG CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS IN THIS MANNER DEMONSTRATING TACIT SUPPORT FOR THE

ITALIAN POSITION IN CURRENT DISPUTE OVER TRIESTE. EMBOFF ASSURED MATIC THIS WAS DEFINITELY NOT THE CASE, REFERRING TO RECENT PETRIC-TOON AND GRANFIL-STABLER CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AND US HOPE THIS ISSUE WOULD BE AMICABLY SETTLED BY TWO PARTIES TO DISPUTE. MATIC REMARKED THAT NEVERTHELESS "IN THESE DAYS" YUGOSLAVS WERE TAKING ESPECIALLY CAREFUL NOTE OF EVERY ACTION BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT AFFECT THOSE COUNTRIES' BI-LATERAL RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT YUGOSLAVS WILL CONTINUE REACT UNFAVORABLY TO US SHIP VISITS TRIESTE AFTER DARK IMAGE. QUESTION IS EXTENT TO WHICH THEY CHOOSE TO HEAT UP THE ISSUE. WITH REGARD TO COMMENT IN ROME 4292 THAT CANCELLATION THESE ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE REGARDED AS "APPARENT CONCESSION TO YUGOSLAV PROVOCATION", BELIEVE QUESTION OF WHO IS PROVOKING WHOM AT THIS JUNCTURE IS SUFFICIENTLY MURKY AS TO SUGGEST IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONTINUING NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED BY EITHER PARTY TO DISPUTE AS TAKING SIDES.

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